THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. A General Purposes Medical Care Sub-Committee has been constituted on 18.03.2005.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are to suggest improvement of the delivery/functioning of medical care in various States. The Committee has been constituted with 13 members, representing employers, employees, representatives of various States and members amongst the Governing Body of ESI Corporation. The Committee will submit its report periodically to the ESI Corporation.

(c) and (d) Delivery of medical care in ESI Hospitals in various States is generally satisfactory. However, a few complaints have been received regarding shortage of staff, non-availability of drugs and delay in reimbursement of medical bills of the beneficiaries including the State of Andhra Pradesh. To overcome these problems State Governments have been requested to rationalize the staff in such manner that all services are provided through the ESI Hospitals. Revolving fund for medical reimbursement in case of speciality/super-speciality and purchase of drugs & dressings have been established to tackle this problem.

Recommendations of Working Group on Minimum Wages

3779. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a large number of recommendations from the Working Group of Minimum Wages;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Working Group; and

(c) whether Government are aware that minimum wages recommended by the Working Group are not being paid by the State Governments and if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Working Group set by the Central Advisory Board in 2002 had made following major recommendations:—

(i) Norms for fixation of minimum wages would be as under:

(a) The norms of 3 consumption units *i.e.* 2 adults plus 2 children for one earner.

(b) Minimum food requirement of 2700 calories per average Indian adult.

(c) The clothing requirement in terms of per capita expenditure as estimated by NSSO Consumer Expenditure Survey.

(d) The expenditure on fuel, lighting and miscellaneous as per ILC norms and expenditure on children's education, medical requirement etc, as per Supreme Court Judgement should also be determined by the results of Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted by NSSO.

(ii) Periodical review and revision of wage structure be undertaken after every five years coinciding with the quinquennial Household Expenditure Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization

(iii) Regional level committees setup for fixation/revision and implementation of minimum wages should meet frequently and at least once in a year.

(c) The compliance of the notified minimum wages is ensured by the respective Central and State machinery who are also authorized to take legal action in case there are violations or complaints.

ESI Dispensaries in Tamil Nadu

3780. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ESI dispensaries located in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the dispensaries are having obsolete and outdated equipments;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to make them super speciality hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) There are 188 dispensaries located in Tamil Nadu.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.